

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I would like to begin the Police Department's 2012 annual town report by first thanking all the members of the Police Department, Dispatchers, and the Department's Administrative Assistant for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the department and the citizens of Stow throughout the year. I would also like to thank the efforts of the other departments and town employees who support and assist us throughout the year. Stow is fortunate to have such dedicated employees; it is truly a team effort.

This past year we had a significant increase in house breaks, from 15 last year to 26 this year, and an increase in motor vehicle accidents, from 89 last year to 114 this year. We would like to remind everyone again to lock their houses and vehicles, remove valuable equipment and personal items when they are not attended, and please call the Police Department if you see anything suspicious. During this past year we had several unoccupied homes broken into and the copper plumbing piping removed. We also had an incident of an occupied home broken into, with a resident of Stow calmly and bravely calling 911 from her home while it was being broken into by two suspects. Her quick response and thorough information to dispatch led to the arrest of two suspects on her property with a vehicle that had cash, jewelry, silverware, and a safe from house breaks earlier in the day. Stow is a nice quiet safe town, but we are not shielded from criminal activity. Please stay alert and call the Police Department if you see anything suspicious.

Over 2012 the Stow Police Department has continued to utilize social media to disseminate public information, and prevent criminal activity. The Stow Police Cybercrime Unit has continued to train in new and upcoming technology to help us advise residents about new criminal practices. Over the past year we have seen a decline in the reports of stolen credit card numbers, larcenies, and identity thefts by individuals falling victim to scams. To combat these crimes, the Cyber Investigative Unit has completed numerous talks with residents about how to better protect themselves while using the internet. We have also been using social media to reach more people in a quick and timely manner by sending out electronic copies of our press log when communicating with our residents. Some crimes the department has seen are digital crimes which have involved Facebook, Yearbook.com and new applications for smart phones. In an example from the past year, the department investigated the use of Facebook as a means to entice a young female to leave her family's home and meet up with a male who was two-and-a half-times her age. Other examples include a suspect using Yearbook.com to complete an identity theft, and another suspect using text messages to entice young people to send inappropriate photos to the suspect.

On July 1 the Stow Dispatch Center was fully operational under State mandates for EMD (emergency medical dispatch) Dispatching. The dispatchers and police officers were trained at the State 911 Center in Maynard utilizing funds obtained by State 911 grants.

Police Officers were recertified at the Lowell Police Academy. This is our second year participating in training at this site, as State funding of in-service training at State Police Academies has been reduced.

We continue our Firearms Training Program and re-qualify with Officer Murphy and Officer Butler, the Firearms Instructors, and the generous support of the Riverside Gun Club in Hudson.

This past spring we had a Police Sergeant promotional process and after a complete and thorough process, Officer Darren Thraen was promoted to the position of Police Sergeant. I would like to congratulate Sergeant Thraen and the other fine candidates involved in this process. I would like to thank Town Administrator William Wrigley, Selectmen Tom Ryan, Fire Chief Mike McLaughlin, Highway Superintendant Mike Clayton, and the area Police Chiefs who assisted us in this process.

We continued to update our equipment and have purchased new portable radios for the officers, a cruiser radio, a police boat radio, two new laptop computers for the police cruisers, two computers for the police station, tables for our training room, two radar units, two shotguns, and a new 2013 Ford Interceptor 6 cylinder SUV that we took delivery of in October. Due to a couple of personal bodily injuries that resulted in substantial insurance claims, we made several improvements to the property around the police station. With input and assistance from the Building Inspector and Tree Warden, the Highway Department installed a drainage system in the parking lot. Numerous large pine trees were removed from the front of the building, to allow sunlight onto the property and assist with our parking lot icing and roof issues in the winter. We added a light pole in the rear of the building to illuminate the parking lot and garage door area. We have also continued to update and improve our video security system in and around the police station. These improvements continue to increase our security and reduce the risk of liability.

Weather was again an issue for us with an incredible Halloween storm. I would like to thank the Fire and Highway Departments, Board of Health, Council on Aging, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Medical Reserve Corps, Hudson Light and Power and other agencies that assist us through these emergencies; again, it is a team effort that gets us through these incidents. We welcomed and appointed three new part-time Special Police Officers: retired Chief of Police Mark Trefry, Dispatcher Samantha Howard, and retired Wayland Police Department Sergeant Rick Manley.

Officer Chris Harrington continued the child safety seat installation program. People can access this information on our website or call the Police Department and leave a message for him. Officer Harrington has done some on-site facility security checks and informational seminars upon request, and recently accepted on the department's behalf the Southern New England AAA Pedestrian Safety award for eleven years without a pedestrian fatality. Officer Harrington was also involved in a serious motor vehicle accident on his way into work. He struck a moose on the highway and sustained serious injuries and totaled his vehicle. Officer Harrington was hospitalized and needed extensive physical therapy. With the help and support of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Administrative Assistant Rachel Belanger and the majority of

Police and Dispatch union members, we were able to do some creative scheduling and moving of personnel to allow Officer Harrington to perform Dispatch duties.

We continue our partnership with Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ). Detective Sallesse has been very active in cases involving C4RJ with victims of crimes, the appropriate defendant, and the proper criminal activity. This agency's information is linked on our website.

We also continue our partnership with Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) with the ongoing problem of domestic violence. This past year all members of the department received extensive "High Risk" training with DVSN. I was honored to be invited to the Board of Directors, as a Police Chiefs Council Representative.

Upon the cancellation of Springfest, a very successful Children's Festival was held at the Stow Community Park, spearheaded by Rachel Belanger and Karen Kelleher. They took it upon themselves to organize this Children's Festival. Hundreds of families and children enjoyed face painting, thumbprints, played on the inflatables, games, sat in police cruisers and fire trucks, and consumed over 500 free hotdogs, compliments of the Stow Police Association. Thank you to all the volunteers, town employees, and private companies that made this day successful.

In the fall Officer Harrington held a very successful Children's Safety Day at Shaw's parking lot, with the financial assistance of Shaw's Supermarket in Stow. Through UMass Medical Healthcare Injury Prevention Center, they provided the "Mobile Safety Street" to educate and teach the children about home safety. The event was well-received and very beneficial to the children of Stow. I would like to thank Shaw's Supermarket for their continued support throughout the year.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program is taught by Sergeant Darren Thraen. This is the twenty-first year the Stow Police Department has worked in conjunction with the Nashoba School District to provide the D.A.R.E. Program to the 5th grade students at Center School. The program is a fourteen-week course presented in one-hour sessions throughout the school year. A graduation ceremony held at Center School is the last lesson of the program. The graduation is a special and rewarding evening for students, parents, teachers and the community leaders who attend the ceremony. Sergeant Thraen also instructs students at the 8th grade level in the D.A.R.E. Program as a refresher before entering high school.

In the spring, with the cooperation of Middlesex County District Attorney Gerry Leone, we began a prescription drug take-back program. We have a prescription drug take-back box in the lobby and it has been very popular and widely utilized by residents. Having the drug collection box available in Stow will make it easier for residents to safely dispose of unused drugs and help prevent future drug related incidents; it is a safe disposal for unused or expired prescription medication.

Paul Yannoni, a resident of Stow, deserves recognition and thanks for his dedication and support of the Police Department. Paul is a major contributor in maintaining our network integrity, software and hardware, our security system, and servers, and in providing trouble shooting and solutions for the Police Department network, on his own time.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Stow Departments for their continued help and cooperation. Special thanks go to the Highway and Fire Departments, with whom we work on a daily basis and whose continued help we appreciate. I would like also to personally thank the Police Officers, Public Safety Dispatchers and Administrative Assistant Rachel Belanger for all they do to help make the department what it is. I also would like to acknowledge the Stow Independent and the Maynard Beacon Villager for their support and honest reporting of the Stow Police Department's logs and news throughout the year. And, last but not least, I would like to thank the citizens of Stow, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and Town Administrator William Wrigley for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
William Bosworth, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger
Administrative Assistant

Full-Time Officers:

Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Darren J. Thraen, Sergeant, D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael Sallese, Detective
Robert Nelson, Patrolman
Christopher Harrington, Patrolman

Public Safety Dispatchers:

John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Samantha Howard
Justine St. John – part-time
Nancy Campbell – part-time

Special Police Officers:

John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
Lee Heron
Michael Smith
John Connors
Enrico Maldari

Police Matrons:

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry
Phyllis Tower
Richard Tower

Auxiliary Police Officer:

Darlene Trefry